(d) the provisions made in new draft to harmonise the law and counter claims of the various interests connected claims of the various interests connected with the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have prepared a draft "Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forests Rights) Bill, 2005" to provide a legislative frame for recognition of forest rights of the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes, in consultation with the concerned Ministries, including the Ministry of Environment & Forests and other stakeholders. The Bill was also posted on the website of the Ministry seeking comments of the public and all stakeholders till 10.7.2005 and consultation were held with the wildlife experts/environmentalists and experts on tribal rights issues. In the light of comments/suggestions received from various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Environment & Forests, the draft Bill has been further modified to reconcile the twin objectives of undoing historical injustice done to the tribal communities with the concern for environmental protection. The proposed Bill is, however, still tentative draft Bill and to be finalized as per the established procedure. No time frame can be indicated for its introduction in the Parliament.

Impact of draft Tribal Bill

569. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present draft Tribal Bill will not only destroy forests, but also wipe out tigers in all the scheduled tribe areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that this bill will destroy the egalitarian nature of tribal communities and it would create landless labour;

(d) if so, whether Government are going to tackle this situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The objective of the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forests Rights) Bill, 2005, being formulated by this Ministry, is to recognize and vest the forests rights and occupation in forests land in forest dewlling Scheduled Tribes who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose

rights could not be recorded. The draft Bill proposes to recognize such rights on land, minor forest produce. etc. of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes. The draft Bill prepared by the Ministry reconciles the twin objective of undoing the historical injustice done to the tribal communities with the concern for environment protection.

The proposed Bill is, however, still a tentative draft Bill and to be finalized as per the established procedure.

Post Matriculation Scholarship to ST students

†570. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds sought by the Rajasthan Government for giving post martic scholarship to Scheduled Tribes students;

(b) the amount sanctioned by Government against this demand;

(c) the reasons and basis for sanctioning lesser amount; and

(d) whether it is not a violation of their rights?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) The State Government of Rajasthan forwarded a claim of Rs. 1859.82 lakhs for Central Assistance for the year 2005-06, in regard to Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for ST students. An amount of Rs. 750.00 lakh had already been released as 1st instalment to State Government on 24.6.2005.

On scrutiny of the claim, various inadequacies/inaccuracies etc. were found. The State Government was accordingly advised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs by means of letter dated 16.11.2005 to give proper justification and clarification in this regard. The 2nd and last instalment can be considered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs only on receipt of proper justification/clarification from the State Government.

Schemes for Tribals in Andhra Pradesh

571. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes being implemented for tribals by the NGOs in Andhra Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.